

## PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 31 August 1957	2. LOCATION Palm Springs, California	12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon  <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical      Saturn <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical  <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local _____ GMT 1/0500Z SEPT. 57	4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual    BX <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar  <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar	Occultation
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	6. SOURCE Military	
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 8 minutes	8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one	9. COURSE on moon
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING Brilliant star close to the moon, brighter than the moon. Went out. Brilliance constant.		11. COMMENTS Occultation of Saturn.

ATIC FORM 329 (REV 26 SEP 52)

NEW MEXICO COLLEGE  
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS

SEP 19 1957

PHYSICAL SCIENCE LABORATORY  
BOX 548  
STATE COLLEGE, NEW MEXICO

ADJACENT TO AND COOPERATING WITH  
WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND

TELEPHONE:  
LAS CRUCES, N. M.  
JACKSON 6-6611

Dr. J. Allen Hynek,  
Smithsonian Astrophysical Obs.,  
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Sept. 16, 1957

Dear Allen:

How are things going?

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from a Lt. Greene. It seems that he has observed a very unusual object, which I thought should come to your attention. I am not in a position to help other than to advise him to seek possible co-witnesses in his area of Palm Springs, California. Also enclosed is a carbon copy of my letter to him, which I took the liberty of mentioning you. Can you advise or help him in any way?

I am steadily making progress on bolting the large steel mounting together for my own twin 16-inch reflecting telescope on Sundays, Sat PM, and 1 hr after work in evenings.

The family and I spent a 9-day vacation in Kansas and Colorado the latter part of August. Annette (my daughter) is a college freshman at A&M. How are you and your family?

Sincerely yours,

ASSOCIATED

# Saturn Visible in South

Along with Venus and Jupiter, which will be visible in the early evening, and Saturn, the August sky offers the opportunity to see the famous aurora borealis.

By JAMES STOKLEY

ALTHOUGH SATURN is the only planet visible in August well into the evening, two others can be seen even after the sun goes down.

Brightest is Venus which, at the beginning of August, sets about an hour and a half after sunset. It is so brilliant that it will be easy to locate, low in the west if the sky is clear.

Jupiter, a little higher and farther to the south, follows about half an hour later. About a seventh as bright as Venus, Jupiter is still more brilliant than any other star or planet. On Aug. 22 Venus passes Jupiter and they will form a brilliant pair in the sky, separated by a distance about that of the diameter of the full moon.

Saturn, about a sixth as bright as Jupiter, is low in the south in the constellation of Ophiuchus, the serpent-bearer, right above the star Antares, which is in Scorpion, the scorpion. Both star and planet are shown on the accompanying maps, which depict the sky as it appears around 10:00 p.m. your own kind of standard time—midway between for daylight-saving time—at the beginning of August. The appearance is similar at the middle of the month an hour earlier, or two hours earlier as August comes to an end.

## Five Bright Stars

Antares is one of five bright stars which is, of the zodiac's first magnitude, visible in August evenings.

The most brilliant of these is Vega in Lyra, the lyre, which is almost directly overhead at the hours for which the maps are prepared. Second brightest is Arcturus in Bootes, the bear-driver, high in the west. Antares is in third place.

Glancing downwards a little from Vega toward the eastern horizon you will come to Cygnus, the swan. In this group you finds Deneb, tenth brightest of the zodiac stars. The fifth is Altair in Aquila, the eagle, high in the east. Below Altair is Alnitak, which is attended by two fainter stars. The star below is called Alnilam and the star to its left is Tarazed; they, are respectively fourth and third magnitudes.

Low in the southwest, in the constellation in which Antares appears, are three of stars in this group a magnitude of the scorpion's tail, as it is popularly known, which forms a triangle around the star. A small star to the left, is Sagittarius, the archer, in its best position of the year for the United States.

It is hard to remember to look in this direction, but early and a good time to do so is when the sun has just passed through the tail of the sky. The other two directions which are much better known are to the northeast the Great Bear, known as the Great Dipper, the bowl of which is to the left, instead of the handle, as is the case in depicting the Ursa Major in the maps. In the second direction to the right, the pole star, around which all the stars revolve, is at the end of the handle of the Little Dipper, which is to the right and to the left.

## Auroras Bright Show

During the summer of 1882, if the sky is dark and the air clear from the place of observation, a good chance that you may get the aurora borealis the "northern lights."

The aurora has various forms, sometimes a thin, pale green with long, ill-defined patches, like the glowing embers of a fire; at other times, however, the green glow may become very well defined, in long, luminous arcs, which, in high northern latitudes, may be a mile or more apart, while the light may appear in a few minutes at a time.

When this glow with its associated greenish light is made intense, the eye may become so fatigued at a short distance that it cannot distinguish objects, and a kind of general anesthesia is produced, which may last for hours. When this occurs, the eyes will have lost up to 90 per cent of their normal power to see the world about them.

There is now going on all over the

green is the most usual color seen in the aurora, many others have been observed. The deepest are often red, while pale blues and even violets have been reported by observers.

Although auroras occur in the earth's atmosphere, at heights of 60 or more miles, they are caused by the sun.

While the sun reaches its maximum of activity, which varies over a cycle of about 11 years, and auroras are most numerous, as they are about now, it emits large quantities of fragments of atoms bearing electrical charges, some positive, some negative. These enter the earth's atmosphere, especially near the poles, where they are drawn in by the magnetic field of our planet. In some manner, not yet fully understood, the gases in the upper atmosphere are made to glow, resulting in auroras.

## Auroras Reported Low

A recent report on auroras published in Great Britain suggests that they can occur as low in the atmosphere as 24 miles above the earth's surface.

Wallace H. Murray of the Geophysical Institute, College, Alaska, found this by studying the radiation emitted by atmospheric auroras during an aurora.

Aurospheric noise is the triple form of life-giving energy that provides a blanket protecting living things from the sun's intense ultraviolet radiation. Without this blanket, life would be buried in a crisp.

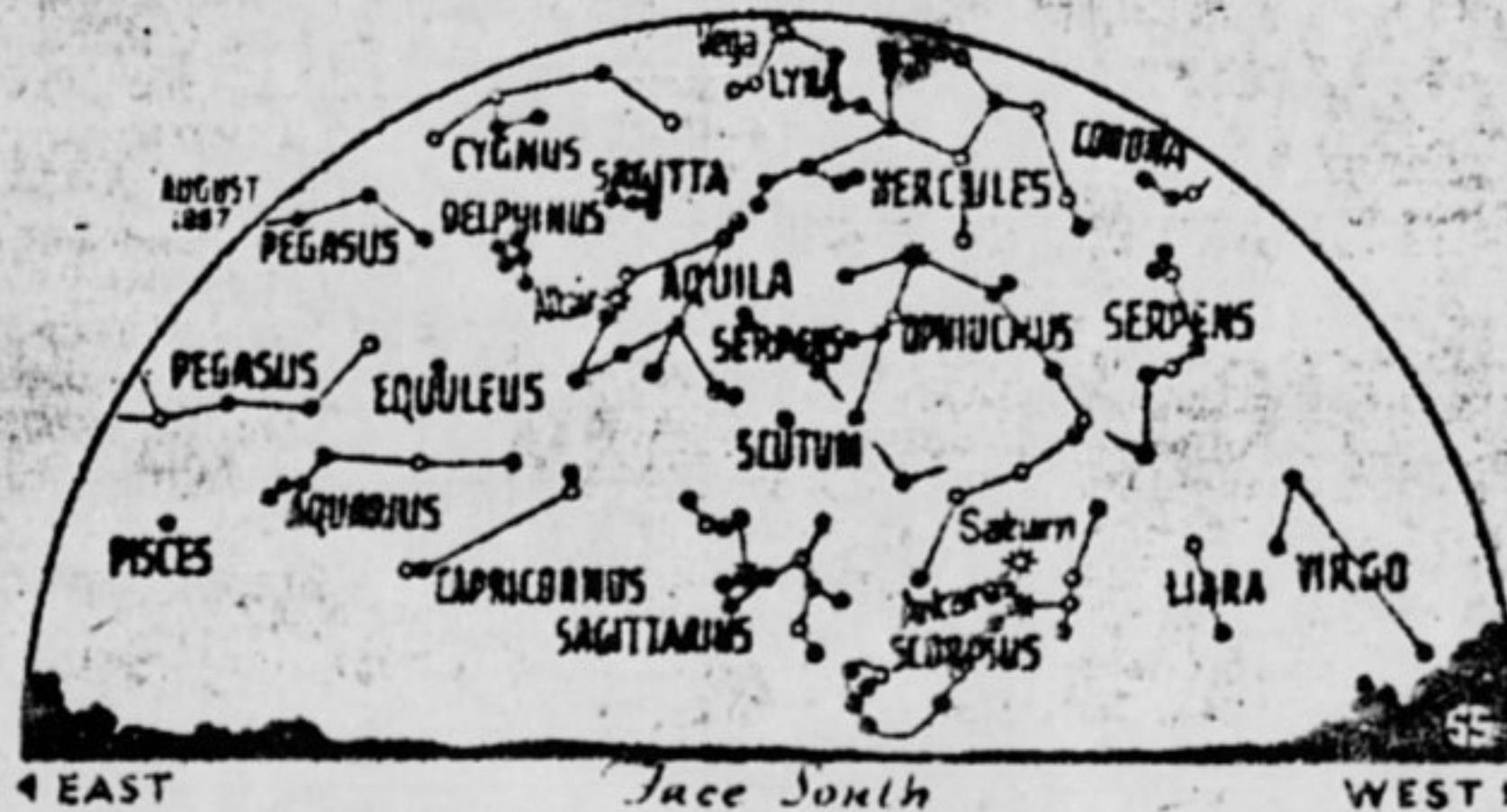
Mr. Murray is measuring the infrared radiation given off at night by auroras. Small changes in its intensity are normal, but on March 20, he observed an "exceptionally large increase" amounting to 15%. This increase occurred immediately after an aurora had moved over the region of sky covered by his instrument.

The scientist believes that the increase was due either to more ozone being present in the atmosphere being broken. He points out in his report, which appears in *Astronomy* (July 30), that this relatively low-level increase might have some influence on the weather.

There is now going on all over the



SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for July 27, 1957



• \* • \* SYMBOLS FOR STARS IN ORDER OF BRIGHTNESS

world, the greatest concerted scientific effort ever attempted, to learn more about the earth and its environment. This is the International Geophysical Year and the earth satellite program is part of it, designed to tell more about the upper atmosphere itself.

Another important group of studies is concerned with the auroras, both of the north and south polar regions, along with other effects which the sun has on the earth. Indeed, the period from July 1, 1957, to Dec. 31, 1958, was chosen for the IGY largely because solar activity is now at maximum, and these effects are at their height, permitting observation by scientists around the world.

Celestial Time Table for August

AUG. EST

2	1:55 p.m.	Moon in first quarter
4	4:03 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn
10	8:08 a.m.	Full moon
12	early a.m.	Meteors visible radiating from constellation of Perseus
	9:00 a.m.	Moon farthest, distance 252,400 miles
18	11:16 a.m.	Moon in last quarter
22	10:00 a.m.	Venus passes Jupiter
25	6:32 a.m.	New moon
27	11:52 a.m.	Moon passes Jupiter
	8:16 p.m.	Moon passes Venus
31	10:33 p.m.	Moon passes Saturn
	11:34 p.m.	Moon in first quarter

Science News Letter, July 27, 1957

No Case (Information Only)

20 August 1957  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

SAUCER OVER RIO DE JANEIRO ON AUGUST 20th. 2051

Indefatigable researcher Dr. Olavo Fontes has sent us another clipping. This time it's from "O Diario Carioca" of August 24th 1957:

"A flying-disc - or an equivalent bath-tube-shaped object - was seen yesterday at a great altitude over the Guanabara Bay, by a considerable crowd that gathered on the two extremes of the Bay - Rio and Niteroi, to watch - between amazed and scared the strange body zig-zaging for more than half an hour describing arcs of 35 degrees. After that time several non-identified planes took off trying to reach the object which seem to be over the Market Place and Place XV. But soon the object got more altitude and disappeared. The apparition of strange objects in the skies of Rio de Janeiro were also observed last Tuesday (August 20th), when the search-lights of ships in the harbor, the airport and the Sao Joao Fortress tried to locate a body seemingly at 1,000 meters.

"Trying to get official confirmation of the mentioned facts, the reporter interviewed Colonel Adamastor Cantalice, C.O. of the Galeao Base, who said laconically that from his Base no aircraft took off to pursue the objects and that he knew nothing about the saucers. He added that from the Calabouço Airport no military aircraft took off, because there are no military aircraft there. (Here he is quite mistaken. There's plenty of military aircraft in the Calabouço Airport. Editor).

"In the section of aircraft of the Third Aerial Zone, the reporter found out that on August 20th (Tuesday) a flying disc made its appearance on an altitude computed to be 1,000 meters by the Santos Dumont Airport. At once the search lights from ships (war-ships) at the Navy Yard of Ilha das Cobras, and Sao Joao Fortress were trained over the object and zeroed it for a few moments before it disappeared.

"The saucer of yesterday appeared about 15:30 (18:30 GMT). Several people who were about to board the ferry boat to Niteroi saw a great crowd in the pier all commenting about flying saucers. Soon after a ferry boat arriving from Niteroi brought all passengers commenting about a flying saucer they had seen at 15:35 (18:35 GMT) over the Bay entrance. During the 25 minutes trip to Rio the passengers saw the object zig-zaging (or oscillating? Ed.) swiftly, describing a 35 degrees arc.

The object as described by a passenger looked like a round bath tube or a basin, reverberating light as though it were made of glass or luminous metal (sic). Passengers reckoned the thing to be really 15 times as great as a basin. (Regular size about 2 feet, then the body would be 30 feet wide or 10 meters. Editor).

"Also in Palce XV people crowded in the pier to watch the same object. Several aircraft took off trying to get to the same altitude as the body. Among the aircraft there were pursuit planes. Soon, without stopping its strange evolutions the saucer got more altitude and disappeared."

Can anybody tell me what was it?

No Case (Information Only)

21 August 1957  
Los Angeles, California  
"Little Man Report"

Aug. 21-San Francisco, Cal-9pm-Fiery UFO & loud Skyquake together! (Ahaa-yes)  
(+Another "New Mex. Crash & Little Men" Report from L.A., Cal.. (KFI  
(+Antibiotic-Ice used to preserve Seafood in Santos, Brazil(Gad!))

22 August 1957

Harold F. R. 6.

403257

MEXICAN HAT DANCE OVER WHITTIER, CALIFORNIA

On the evening of August 22nd, numerous residents in and around Whittier, California reported watching a remarkable display of UFOs. Among the witnesses was Mr. Warner Little, his wife, three teen-aged sons, and his eight-year-old daughter Sandra, who first told of seeing the objects. Running into the house early in the evening, she told her mother "There are two eyes looking at me from the sky!" Mrs. Little washing dishes, paid no attention. She then told her father, who was in the bedroom. He looked out of the west window and saw that there were two bright, round discs high in the sky. Directly behind them were two jets, recognizable by their exhaust trails. The time was exactly 7:19 p.m. Mr. Little ran outside, but he could no longer see the objects, although the jets were still visible.

Thinking there was a chance that the UFOs might return, Mr. Little returned to the house and got his telescope. The scope, a Bushnell, has a 60-mm. objective of 910 mm. focal length; he was using a 30-power eyepiece.

As he was setting up the telescope in the yard, Mrs. Little pointed up: "Here come two more of them!" While Mr. Little was sighting the scope on these two objects, approaching slowly from the southeast, someone else called out: "Look straight up---there's a whole fleet of them!" Actually, four more objects were visible near the zenith; no one had seen them arrive. The two from the southeast joined them and stopped.

The six objects were grouped in pairs: two were to the east of the zenith, two to the west, and the remaining two to the south. Although they were hovering motionless, each appeared to be rotating upon its own axis. All were inclined at a slight angle toward the center of the formation. Presently all six began revolving in a circular motion around the zenith; this continued for about five minutes. As they circled, still in pairs, they rocked slowly back and forth toward the center of the circle; this peculiar motion enabled the observers to see the upper portion of each object. They were carefully viewed through the telescope. All were identical: they were solid-appearing, with clearly defined edges, and on the top of each object was a pronounced dome-like protuberance. This dome was not rounded, but appeared more "angular," and blended in smoothly with the disc-like base of the objects. The overall resemblance to a Mexican sombrero was striking. The thickness of the objects was about one-twentieth of the diameter. To the naked eye, the diameter of each object was about equal to the diameter of a cigarette held at arm's length (about the same as the full moon). At intervals, one of the objects would be seen to emit a small puff of smoke from its trailing edge; this smoke dispersed quickly. It was noted that only one member of each pair did this.

When the objects finally began moving away, they did so at a moderately slow speed. Two made a right angle to the east; the other four moved to the north as a close group. Mr. Little was tracking one of the two objects in the east, while his eldest son watched through the eyepiece of the scope, when they saw the color change from a silver to a red, then orange, glow. The color change began at the base of the "super-structure" on top. The top of the "super-structure," as well as the edge of the disc, appeared to turn black.

At this point, the disc-centered on the cross hairs of the eyepiece at the time—suddenly vanished. Looking up, Mr. Little saw that it had vanished entirely from view. The rest of the witnesses confirmed that all of the objects had disappeared instantaneously. Mr. Little checked the time: it was 7:40 p.m. (Sunset that day was about 7:45.) He immediately called the Pasadena Air Defense Center, but got a "no comment" reply.

While the Littles were watching the objects from their yard, the aerial display was also being observed, independently, by their neighbors, Mr. & Mrs. John Iseli, and Mrs. Iseli's mother. Mr. Iseli, a former skeptic, reversed his opinions abruptly after seeing the strange objects. They confirmed precisely what the Littles had reported.

We are indebted to CSI members Idabel Epperson and Jackie Sanders, who obtained the details directly from the two families. In addition, they interviewed at least six other witnesses, including:

An elderly lady named Mrs. Fromm, living about two blocks from the Littles, who spotted the objects as she watered her lawn.

Mrs. Eugene Jones, who was in the back yard of her home, a mile away, when she noticed them.

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Rogers, also of Whittier, who, with a guest, were having a barbecue supper when they saw what they thought were three objects (Living four miles from the Littles, they apparently mistook the paired objects, as described by the Littles, for single objects. They did not have the benefit of using binoculars or telescope).

Mr. Don T. Frost, who lives in Rivera--6 miles away. He was with his little daughter watching planes in the sky when they beheld the aerial minuet.

Another Rivera resident--who flatly refused to have his name printed--was sitting on his patio. He was so shaken by what he saw that it wasn't until a day or so later that he told his wife about it--after he learned a neighbor had seen the same phenomenon.

Mrs. Epperson added that a triangulation of the various reports was made; it indicated an altitude of 2,300 feet.

One intriguing aspect of this affair--and perplexing as well--is the reported abrupt disappearance of the objects. The Research Section has at least two other cases in its files in which unidentified aerial objects have exhibited this same unorthodox behavior.

The first--a daytime sighting--took place near LaFayette, New York in May, 1946. Two young men were driving north toward Syracuse in an open convertible when they saw a large, metallic cylinder with sharply pointed ends, poised motionless in a clear sky northwest of their position. After watching the phenomenon--this was a year before "flying saucers" whirled into view--for several minutes, it abruptly and inexplicably vanished from sight.

The second incident occurred on the night of December 9, 1955, on the Jersey Turnpike near Teterboro Airport. A luminous green bullet-shaped object with two brilliant "portholes" on the side was seen to cross the Turnpike as a low altitude and at close range, and then to disappear.

No Case (Information Only)

24 August 1957

Minas Gerais, Brazil

SAUCERS OVER MINAS GERAIS

CPDV is also indebted to Dr. Olavo Fontes by the following items about saucers over Brazil:

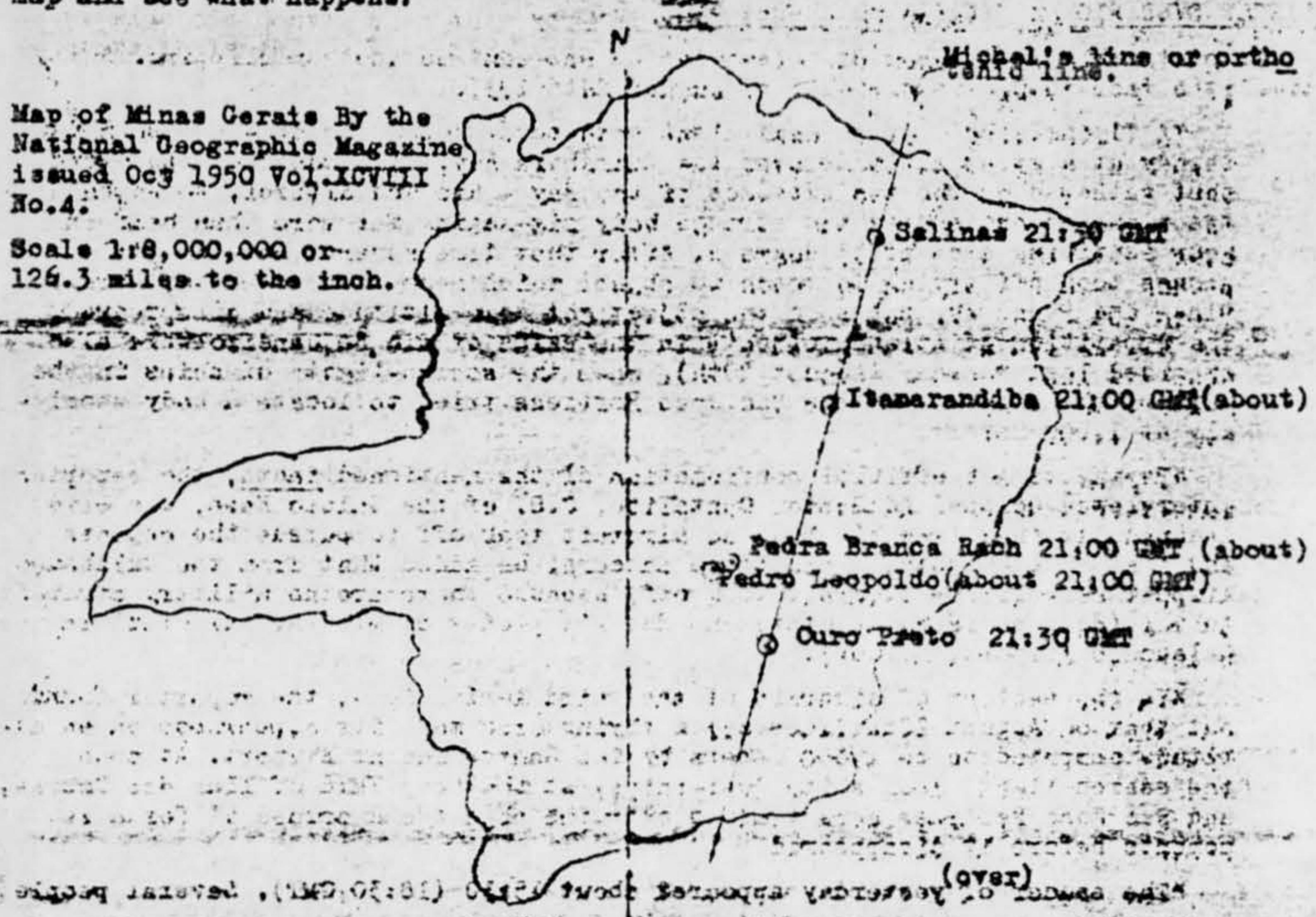
From "O Globo" September 5th, "Roberto Augusto Menescal Campos, student of the Ouro Preto Metallurgy School told the reporters that he saw in the sky coming from the north, a mysterious luminous body, round in shape. It could be described as a star although its light was opalescent and its speed was tremendous. It was about 18:30 (21:30 GMT) at the sunset on the evening of August 24th. The witness says the craft made up and down motions on a straight line; it was noiseless and left no trail." From Itamarandiba, the CICOMI (Civilian Saucer Investigation Center of Unidentified Flying Objects) received information that two reliable witnesses had seen over that city two flying objects which answered the descriptions generally made about saucers. This was the second time that township was observed by saucers, the first being on July 14th this year at 17:40 (20:40 GMT). From other sources CICOMI received information that on the same August 24th about the same time, two greenish objects were seen over the Pedra Branca Ranch, near the township of Pedro Leopoldo, near Velhas River. These objects described a horizontal straight line of flight."

ORTHOENTRY?

Our next topic will be the confirmation of the saucers aforementioned seen over the State of Minas Gerais. Again we are indebted to Dr. Olavo Fontes for the information. A State Representative, on the very same Saturday August 24th at 18:30 (21:30 GMT) saw a saucer coming from the north. Let us plot it over a map and see what happens:

Map of Minas Gerais By the National Geographic Magazine issued Oct 1950 Vol. LCVIII No. 4.

Scale 1:8,000,000 or  
126.3 miles to the inch.



(over)

~~August 30<sup>th</sup>~~

- 7 -

Dr. Olavo Fontes from Rio de Janeiro, kindly sent a clipping corroborating the sighting over Vitoria on August 30 and printed on August 31 by "A Tribuna". The clipping says: "A big luminous body - maybe a flying disc - leaving a bright blue-green trail behind, was seen last Saturday by several people in Vitoria. The strange round "aircraft" flew very low over the Convent of Penha, and with great speed disappeared near the airport. Among the witnesses are Messers August Azevedo, Lieutenant Almir Castro, Magno da Silva, Diogenes Oliveira, Cesar Neves, Virgilio Sousa Neto, José Carlos Rodrigues Vale, Silvio Romero Castro and the nuns of Sacred Heart of Mary. (Saturday was August 31st. Ed.).

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30 August 1957  
Victoria, Brazil

- 7 -

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31 Aug 1957

Pasadena  
Sep. 25, 1957

Dear Capt. -

I thought you might be interested in this. Please treat it confidentially, as it leaves C.T. with somewhat of a red face!

What they couldn't explain was merely the occultation of Saturn by the moon. The time matches exactly. The moon passed

over Saturn, dark side first, of course, so the bright light went out instantaneously. This is a rather rare occurrence, and I'm not too surprised that it puzzled them! But C.T. should have caught on!

I'll be in Washington early next week and S<sup>t</sup> Louis

## 1 - 17 SEPTEMBER 1957 SIGHTINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OBSERVER</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
1	Chitose AFB, Japan	Military (PHOTO)	Other (NEGATIVE FLAW)
1	Canton, Ohio (CASE MISSING)	Military	Aircraft
2	Fort Meyers, Florida (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Astro (STAR)
2	Kelly AFB, Texas	Military	Astro (VENUS)
3	Yuma, Arizona	[REDACTED]	Other (TOW TARGET)
3	Presque Isle AFB, Maine	Military	Insufficient Data
4	Ohio, Wisconsin Area	Multi	Astro (AURORA)
5	Ney-Archbold, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
5	Wales, North Dakota	[REDACTED]	Astro (METEOR)
5-6	Upland, California	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
7	West Germany	Civilian	Astro (METEORS)
9-10	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	[REDACTED] (PHYSICAL S)	Other (CHAFF)
10	Portland, Oregon	[REDACTED]	Aircraft
10	Wheelus AFB, Libya	Military	Aircraft
11	Lackland AFB, Texas	Military	Other (BIRDS)
12	NE France	Military	Balloon
12	Tulsa, Oklahoma	[REDACTED] (RADAR)	Other (RADAR MALFUNCTION)
12	Bellwood, Nebraska	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
14	Osan AFB, Korea	Military	Balloon
14	San Antonio, Texas	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
15	Lincoln County, Nevada	[REDACTED]	Other (INCONSISTENT DATA)
16	Southern Italy	[REDACTED]	Aircraft
16	Pecos, New Mexico	[REDACTED]	Astro (METEOR)
17	St Louis, Missouri	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
17	Columbus, Ohio (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Balloon
17	Graville, Illinois (CASE MISSING)	Civilian	Aircraft
17	Kansas City, Missouri	[REDACTED]	Aircraft

## ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>EVALUATION</u>
Sep	Universe	Science News Ltr	
Early Sep	Ubatuba Beach	APRO Bulletin	
10	Pleasant Valley, New York	Newsclipping	

Sept 13, 1957  
Palm Springs Calif

Prof [REDACTED]  
New Mexico College A & M.  
New Mexico

Dear Prof. Tombaugh:

On August 31st. 1957 I  
and my wife witnessed a  
brilliant blue-white light  
on or very near the dark  
portion of the half moon.  
(If you compare it to the  
size of the moon size the  
light was a little larger  
than the head of a  
common pin and much  
brighter than the moon.)

on Oct. 3. Back in Boston

Oct. 7

I think I have to be  
in Columbus around Oct. 20-~~22~~  
or Oct. 23, for just a short  
stay.

Regards to all —

Allen Lynch

Well, enough for this case. I had a rather interesting situation here of a case reported by an astronomer who certainly should know better (!) to whom an unusual sighting was reported and he stated in letter that there was nothing astronomical about it. It took only a glance to note that the person had observed the occultation of the planet Saturn by the moon on the evening of August 31. The observer reported a light brighter than the moon practically on top of the moon! He also reported that the light suddenly went out. Of course it did. The light, Saturn, was eclipsed for the better part of an hour by the moon! It takes all kinds to make a world.

2

This phenomenon took place between 0800 P.M. and 0930 P.M. on August 31st 1957.

I viewed it myself for 3 minutes with the naked eye and an additional 5 minutes with powerful binoculars. To the ignorant person it would have been a brilliant star very close to the moon, but as we know the brightest star is dimmed almost as to be seen by the eye when the moon is near it but this object was brighter than the moon.

If I'd not you either

Today night I left an  
up on him, and after  
watched it for eight  
minutes. It went but  
much the same as a  
star going down behind  
a mountain. I could also  
see it all in the light  
of the moon and the  
brightness.

I don't know why  
it was so bright at the end,  
so no result.

Well, I think you  
will be very interested  
in what I have to say.  
I thought I had made  
out the sun, but this

4

is a recent town and  
the papers and Radio  
Stations are a little hard  
to persuade without help.

I also reported this to  
the Vice Base Commander  
of the Edwards Air Force  
Base at their expense.

Everybody seems to be  
afraid to say anything  
to scare the public -  
all I know is I saw  
it and this is the  
last time I will lift  
a finger to point it.

So if you see

5

interested it's up to  
you —

Thank you I am

Very truly yours

John P. Greene  
1st Lt. C. F. R.

216 N. Calle Santa Rosa  
Palm Springs, Calif.

NEW MEXICO COLLEGE  
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS

PHYSICAL SCIENCE LABORATORY  
BOX 548  
STATE COLLEGE, NEW MEXICO

ADJACENT TO AND COOPERATING WITH  
WHITE SANDS PROVING GROUND

TELEPHONE:  
LAS CRUCES, N.M.  
JACKSON 6-6611

16 Sept. 1957

Lt. John B. Greene  
216 N. Calle Santa Rosa  
Palm Springs, California

Dear Lt. Greene:

Thank you for the communication of your very interesting observation. Evidently, it was no known astronomical object. It is remarkable that an object of such small angular dimension would be brighter than the moon - hence, the source of its light must have been from some high temperature of its own and not reflection of any light.

Unfortunately, I was not home when you tried to call me. If the object were as high as 50 miles or more, it would have been visible from Las Cruces in the low southwest, and we would have been able to measure its height by parallax.

I shall send a copy of your letter to my friend, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at Cambridge, Massachusetts. Until recently, he conducted an analysis of reported observed objects of this kind while he was professor at Ohio State University where he had a contract to study such reports. I am sure that he will be sympathetic and he may be able to offer a plan of action.

The object you witnessed certainly ought to receive some scientific analysis. If some other observer within 100 miles also saw it, it would provide important information on height, absolute magnitude, etc.

Enclosed is a copy of an account of the strangest sight I have ever witnessed. You may keep it.

Sincerely yours,

CWT:ds

CLYDE W. TOMBAUGH  
Astronomer